

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 37648 271749Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3618
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T PARIS 37648

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM, FR, OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: FRENCH DECIDE AGAINST
FOUR-POWER SALT TALKS

REF: PARIS 37063

1. ELYSEE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SOURCE INFORMS US THAT
AT DECEMBER 22 MEETING WITH SENIOR DEFENSE AND
DISARMAMENT OFFICIALS ON FRENCH POSITIONS FOR THE
PRESIDENT'S VISIT, IT WAS DECIDED THAT FRANCE WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY INSTITUTIONALIZED
FOUR-POWER TALKS ON SALT.

2. DECISION WAS BASED ON TWO GROUNDS: FIRST, FRANCE'S
VITAL INTEREST IN MAINTAINING IMAGE OF COMPLETE
INDEPENDENCE OF ITS NUCLEAR DETERRENT; AND, SECONDLY,
ITS FEAR THAT INSTITUTIONALIZED FOUR-POWER TALKS ON
SALT WOULD CREATE A TWO-TIER SYSTEM IN NATO SERIOUSLY
IRRITATING TO THE OTHER ALLIES, SUCH AS ITALY.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 37648 271749Z

RESULT COULD BE PERMANENT TENSION AND LEAKS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOURCE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS
DECISION--WHICH WILL BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT
BY GISCARD DURING HIS VISIT--IS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE
OCCASIONAL FOUR-POWER CONSULTATIONS ON SALT, IF AND
WHEN THIS IS OPPORTUNE AND USEFUL, IN WHICH FRENCH

WILL BE PLEASED TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE. SIMILARLY,
FRENCH DECISION IS NOT MEANT TO DETRACT FROM THE GREAT
IMPORTANCE GOF CONTINUES TO ATTACH TO BILATERAL CON-
SULTATIONS IN THIS FIELD, SUCH AS GISRD'S FORTH-
COMING MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.
HARTTAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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